

Message Text

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65

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CPR-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1953

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MONROVIA 6659

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, LI (TOLBERT, W.R.)

SUBJECT: TOLBERT STATE VISIT - AMBASSADOR'S FAREWELL RECEPTION FOR
PRESIDENT

1. PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR WASHINGTON, AMBASSADOR HOSTED RECEPTION IN RESIDENCE FOR PRESIDENT TO MAKE STATE VISIT. IN ADDITION TO PRESIDENT AND MRS. TOLBERT, RECEPTION WAS ATTENDED BY MEMBERS OF PRESIDENTIAL PARTY (ACCOMPANYING ON STATE VISIT), CABINET MEMBERS, SENIOR CONGRESSMEN AND SENATORS, MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND PROMINENT AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN AND SPOUSES.

2. IN BRIEF REMARKS AMBASSADOR WELCOMED PRESIDENT TO RESIDENCE AGAIN (HE PREVIOUSLY ATTENDED JULY FOURTH RECEPTION) AND NOTED THAT HE PRESIDENT WOULD BE THE FIRST AFRICAN HEAD OF STATE TO VISIT DURING THE BICENTENNIAL YEAR. IN RESPONSE, THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT THIS RECEPTION AND THE VISIT MARKED THE CLOSE TIES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND EXPRESSED HIS PLEASURE IN ATTENDING THE RECEPTION AND VISITING THE UNITED STATES. HE COMMENTED THAT ALTHOUGH HE HAD VISITED THE UNITED STATES A NUMBER OF TIMES BEGINNING IN 1949. THIS WOULD BE THE FIRST OFFICIAL STATE VISIT. REMARKS WERE NON-SUBSTANTIVE.

3. PRESIDENT AND MRS. TOLBERT STAYED APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR AND GREETED ALL GUESTS IN RECEIVING LINE. MANY GUESTS, INCLUDING NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS, NOTED DURING RECEPTION (AND IN CONVERSATIONS SINCE) THE MARKED CORDIAL AND
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WARM (PARTLY DUE TO THE MALFUNCTIONING OF THE AIR CONDITIONING)

ATMOSPHERE. EMBOFFS ATTENDING GENERALLY HAVE IMPRESSION THAT THIS RECEPTION NOTEWORTHY (AS COMPARED TO THE USUAL OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS) BY THE "GOOD VIBES" WHICH WERE OBVIOUSLY PRESENT. IT CERTAINLY HAS SET A MOST POSITIVE TONE FOR THE UPCOMING VISIT.

4. WE ALSO NOTE THAT VOA AFRICAN SERVICE HAS CARRIED REPORT OF RECEPTION, QUOTING FROM THE REMARKS OF BOTH THE AMBASSADOR AND THE PRESIDENT. BASED ON MATERIAL PROVIDED BY USIS MONROVIA. HORAN

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